(b) A total of 2821 applicants for 1982 and 1983, all in Bharatnagar exchange area, have not been provided with telephone connections.

(c) The above applicants will be provided with telephone connections by the middle of the 8th Five Year Plan.

Settlement of cases of Freedom fighters

1844. SHRI N. RAJANGAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had announced in 1989 that all the cases of pension to freedom fighters will be settled by 19th November, 1989 but the cases are yet to be finalised ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(c) by when Government propose to settle all the cases of pension to freedom fighters?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As on 31-1-1990 285 cases were pending. Out of these, 31 cases having special features are pending for want of reports from State Governments. Those will be processed as soon as reports from State Governments are received.

Other 254 cases are to be scrutinised by the Committee for Arya Samaj Movement. These cases will also be processed as soon as they are scrutinised by the Committee.

Confiscation of the goods by Transporters

1845. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that M/s. New Indian Roadways, Calcutta and its associates in various parts of the country have been confiscating the goods of the consignors/consignees;

(b) whether any provisions have been laid down by Government in the Motor Vehicle Act to cancel the National Permit of any of the transporter who has not delivered the goods booked by consignor to consignee; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and other steps Government propose to take against the transporters in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) Information is being collected from the State Government.

(b) and (c) Non-delivery of goods by the transporter, who has entered into a contract with the consignor, is a breach of contract, punishable under the relevant laws.

Construction of telephone exchange building at Chengannur

1846. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) by when the construction of telephone exchange building at Chengannur is expected to start;

(b) by when the plan for the above work was finalised; and

(c) whether the building plan has been approved by the Department?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) The construction of T.E. Building at Chengannur is expected to start during 1990-91.

(b) and (c) Standard building for Remote Line unit type of exchange is proposed to be constructed at Chengannur. The detailed drawings and detailed estimates for this building are likely to be finalised by October, 1990.

Pension to widows of Punjab terrorist victims

1847. SHRI N.E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of widows of victims of terrorism in Punjab who are being given pensions as on 1st January, 1990 and at what state;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase this rate; and

(c) the number of applications of eligible widows for pension that were pending as on 1st January, 1990 alongwith the district-wise details of the names of the deceased; the date on which the deceased was killed, the reasons for which pension had not been sanctioned, and also by what time pension is likely to be sanctioned in each case?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) to (c) The Govt. of Punjab have announced an increase in the rate of pension to be paid to the widows whose husbands were killed by terrorists. The number of widow who were being given pension as on 1st January, 1990 the number of applications of eligible widows which were pending on that date and other details mentioned in parts (a) and (c) of the question are awaited from the Govt. of Punjab.

Financial assistance to dependents of Punjab terrorist victims

1848. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance admissible to the next of kin/dependents of victims of terrorism in Punjab in case victims is (a) policeman, (b) Home guards, (c) SPO, (d) Central Government employees, (e) Punjab Government employee, (f) an ordinary citizen but an earning hand, (g) a child or non-earning hand and (h) a member of a village defence committee; and

(b) whether it is a fact that financial assistance is admissible to the other or next of kin if a policeman is killed by terrorists?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) As reported by the Govt. of Punjab, Special ex-gratia grant to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh is allowed in case of bereaved families of Punjab Police personnel and member of para-military forces like CRPF, BSF, RPF etc. who were/are killed at the hands of extremists and Rs. 1.10 lakhs is paid to the families of Gazetted Officers killed in terrorist action. The amount of ex-gratia grant admissible to the families of Punjab Police personnel is also taken into account while allowing the amount of Special ex-gratia grant in the cases. Besides this, 'special family pension' equivalent to last pay drawn by the deceased Punjab Police personnel concerned immediately before his death is also allowed to bereaved family upto national date of superannuation and thereafter half of the last pay till another 7 years, and afterwards at the normal rates as per relevant instructions of the State Govt. A family gratuity equivalent to six months pay with minimum of Rs. 6,000/- and maximum of Rs. 12,000/ is also paid.